THE Swearer's-BANK, &c.

BY

Dean *SWIFT.*

WITH

The *Beſt in Chriſtendom.* A TALE.

(Price Six-Pence.)

THE

Secretary's BANK:

OR,

Parliamentary Security

THE

Eſtabliſhment

OF THE

Sweaters BANK, &c.

IRELAND.

BRITISH MUSEUM

WITH

The Bell in Cheapſide. A TALE.

(Price Six Pence.)

Printed by THOMAS HUME, near Door to the
Well's-Head in Seacoal-Alley, Fleet-ſtreet, Reprinted at
London by J. ROBERTS in Warwick-Lane.

THE *Swearer's*-BANK:

OR,

Parliamentary Security FOR Eſtabliſhing a new BANK IN *IRELAND.*

WHEREIN

The Medicinal Uſe of OATHS is conſidered.

(WITH

The *Beſt in Chriſtendom.* A TALE.)

Written by Dean SWIFT.

Si Populus vult decipi decipiatur.

To which is prefixed,

An ESSAY upon *Engliſh* BUBBLES.

By THOMAS HOPE, *Eſq;*

DUBLIN:

Printed by THOMAS HUME, next Door to the *Walſh's-Head* in *Smock-Alley.* 1720. Reprinted at *London* by J. ROBERTS in *Warwick-Lane.*

THE
Sovereign's BANK:
OR,
Parliamentary Security
FOR
Establishing a new BANK
IN
ENGLAND.

TO THE

Right Reverend, Right Honourable,
and Right Worſhipful;

AND TO

The Reverend, Honourable, and Worſhipful, &c.

Company of *Stock-Jobbers*;

Whether Honeſt or Diſhoneſt, Pious or Impious, Wiſe or Otherwiſe, Male or Female, Young or Old, One with another, who have ſuffered Depredation by the late BUBBLES: *Greeting.*

HAVING received the following Scheme from *Dublin*, I give you the earlieſt Notice, how you may retrieve the DECUS ET TUTAMEN, * which you have ſacrificed by *Permits* in Bubbles. This Project is founded on a Parliamentary Security, beſides, the *Devil is in it*, if it can *fail*, ſince

* *The* Motto *round a* Crown-Piece, *which was the uſual Price of* Permits.

a *Dignitary of the Church* is at the Head on't. Therefore you, who have subscribed to the Stocking Insurance, and are out at the Heels, may soon appear tight about the Legs. You, who encouraged the Hemp Manufacture, may leave that Matter to Rogues, and prevent the Odium of *Felo de se*. Medicinal Virtues are here to be had without the Expence and Hazard of a *Dispensary*: You may sleep without dreaming of Bottles at your Tail, and a Looking-Glass shall not affright you; and since the Glass-Bubble proved as brittle as its Ware, and *broke* together with it all the Hopes of its Proprietors, they may make themselves *whole* by subscribing to our new Fund.

Here indeed may be made Three very grave Objections by Incredulous Interested Priests, Ambitious Citizens, and Scrupulous Statesmen. The Stocking Manufactury Gentlemen don't know how swearing can bring 'em to any Probability of covering their Legs anew, unless it be by the Means of a Pair of Stocks: That the Hemp-snared Men apprehend, that such an Encouragement for Oaths can tend to no other Advancement, Promotion, and Exaltation of their Persons, than that of the Gallows: The late old Ordinary, *Paul*,

Soul, having grown Grey in the Habit of making this accurate Observation in every Minute's Session-Paper, That *Swearing* had as great a hand in the Suspension of every living Soul under his Cure, as *Sabbath-breaking* it self; and that the Glass-Bubble-Men cannot, for their Lives, with the best Pair of Spectacles, that is the only thing left *sure* and *whole*, out of all their Ware, see how they shall make any thing out of this his *Oath-Project*, supposing he should even confirm by one its Goodness: An Oath being, as they say, as brittle as Glass, and only made to be broken.

But those incredulous Priests shall not go without an Answer, that will, I am confident, induce them to place a great Confidence in the Benefit arising from Christians, who damn themselves every Hour of the Day. For while they speak of the Vainness and Fickleness of Oaths, as an Objection against our Project, they little consider that this Fickleness and Vainness is the common Practice among all the People of this *Sublunary* World; and that consequently, instead of being an Objection against the Project, is a concluding Argument of the Constancy and Solidity of their sure Gain by it; a never-failing Ar-

 gument,

gument, as he tells us, among the Brethren of his Cloth.

The Ambitious Citizens, who from being *plung'd deep* in the wealthy *Whirlpool* of the *South-Sea*, are in hopes of *rising* to ſuch Seats of Fortune and Dignity, as would beſt ſuit with their mounting and aſpiring Hopes, may imagine that this new Fund, in the Siſter Nation, may prove a Rival to theirs; and, by drawing off a Multitude of Subſcribers, will, if it makes a *Flood* in *Ireland*, cauſe an *Ebb* in *England*. But it may be anſwer'd, that, tho' our Author avers, that this Fund will *vie* with the *South-Sea*, yet it will not *claſh* with it. On the contrary, the Subſcribers to this muſt wiſh the Increaſe of the *South-Sea*, (ſo far from being its Rival); becauſe the Multitude of People raiſed by it, who were Plain-ſpeakers, as they were Plain-dealers before, muſt learn to ſwear, in order to become their Cloaths, and to be *Gentlemen Alamode*; while thoſe that are ruined, I mean *Jobed* by it, will diſmiſs the Patience of their old Pattern, ſwear at their Condition, and curſe their Maker in their Diſtreſs; and ſo the *Increaſe* of that *Engliſh* Fund will be demonſtratively an ample *Augmentation* of

of the *Iriſh* one: So far will it be from being rivaled by it, ſo that each of them may ſubſcribe to a Fund they have *their own* Security for augmenting.

The Scrupulous Stateſmen (for we know that Stateſmen are uſually *very ſcrupulous*) may object againſt having this Project ſecured by Votes in Parliament; by reaſon, as they may deem it, in their great Wiſdom, an Impious Project; and that therefore ſo Illuſtrious an Aſſembly, as the *Iriſh* Parliament, ought, by no means, according to the Opinion of a Chriſtian Stateſman, to be concerned in ſupporting an impious Thing in the World. The Way that ſome may take to prove it impious, is, becauſe it will tend highly to the *Intereſt* of *Swearing*.—But this I take to be plain downright Sophiſtry, and playing upon Words: If this be called the *Swearing-Project*, or the *Oath-Act*, the *Increaſe* of *Swearing* will be very much for the Benefit and Intereſt of *Swearing*, (*i.e.*) to the Subſcribers in the Fund to be raiſed by this fruitful *Swearing-Act*, if it ſhould be ſo called; but not to the *Swearers* themſelves, who are to pay for it: So that it will be, according to this Diſtinction, piouſly indeed an Act for a *Benefit* to Mankind, *from* ſwearing, not

impi-

impious, a Benefit *in Swearing*: So that I think that Argument entirely anſwered and defeated. Far be it from the *Dean* to have enter'd into ſo Unchriſtian a Project, as this had been, *ſo* conſidered. But then theſe Politicians (being generally, as the World knows, mighty tender of Conſcience) may raiſe theſe new Doubts, Fears, and Scruples, *viz.* that it will however cauſe the Subſcribers to wiſh, in their Minds, for many Oaths to fly about, which is a heinous Crime, and to lay Stratagems to try the Patience of Men of all Sorts, to put them upon the *Swearing Strain*, in order to bring Griſt to their own Mill, which is a Crime ſtill more enormous; and that therefore, for fear of theſe evil Conſequences, the paſſing of ſuch an Act is not conſiſtent with the *really extraordinary* and *tender Conſcience* of a true modern Politician. But in Anſwer to this, I think I can plead the ſtrongeſt Plea in Nature, and that is called *Precedent*, I think; which I take thus from the *South-Sea*: One Man, by the very Nature of that Subſcription, muſt naturally pray for the temporal *Damnation* of another Man in his Fortune, in order for gaining his own *Salvation* in it; yea, even tho' he knows the other Man's *Temporal* Damnation would

would be the Cause of this Evening by his Swearing and Perjuring. Neither do I think that in Conscience any Man is bound to Swearing. Unless Man is a Free Agent, and can chuse whether he will swear or no, any body will swear whatsoever to the contrary notwithstanding: And in Politicks I am sure it is even a *Machiavilian Holy* Maxim, That *some Men* should be *ruined* for the *Good of others*. Thus I think I have answered all the Objections that can be brought against this Project's coming to Perfection, and proved it to be convenient for the State, of Interest to the Protestant Church, and consonant with Christianity, nay, with the very Scruples of Modern, Squeamish Statesmen.

To conclude: The Laudable Author of this Project squares the Measures of it so much according to the *Scripture-Rule*, it may reasonably be presumed, that all good Christians in *England* will come as fast into the Subscriptions for his Encouragement, as they have already done throughout the Kingdom of *Ireland*. For what greater Proof could this Author give of his Christianity, than, for bringing about this Swearing-Act, charitably to part with his *Coat*, and sit starving in a very thin Wast-

Waſtcoat in his Garret, to do the Corporal Virtues of Feeding and Cloathing the Poor, and raiſing them from the Cottage to the *Palace*, by pulling down the Houſes of the Rich. What more could have been done even in the Primitive Times?

Thomas Hope.

From my Houſe in St. *Faith's* Pariſh, *London*, *Auguſt* 10. 1728.

P. S. For the Benefit of the Author, Application may be made to Me at the *Tilt-Yard* Coffee-houſe, *Whitehall*.

THE *Swearers-BANK:*

OR,

Parliamentary Security for a New BANK.

TO believe every thing that is ſaid by a certain Set of Men, and to doubt of nothing they relate, tho' ever ſo improbable, is a Maxim that has contributed as much for the Time, to the Support of *Iriſh-Banks*, as it ever did to the *Popiſh-Religion*; and they are

not only beholden to the *Latter* for their Foundation, but they have the Happineſs to have the ſame *Patron-Saint*: For *Ignorance*, the reputed Mother of the Devotion of the *one*, ſeems to bear the ſame affectionate Relation to the Credit of the *other*.

To ſubſcribe to BANKS, without knowing the Scheme or Deſign of them, is not unlike to ſome Gentlemen's ſigning ADDRESSES without knowing the Contents of them: To engage in a *Bank* that has neither *Act of Parliament*, *Charter*, nor *Lands* to ſupport it, is like ſending a Ship to Sea without Bottom; to expect a Coach and Six by the *former*, would be as ridiculous as to hope a Return by the *latter*.

It was well known ſome time ago, that our *Banks* would be included in the *Bubble-Bill*; and it was believed thoſe Chimeras would neceſſarily vaniſh with the firſt *Eaſterly* Wind that ſhould inforth the Town of the *Royal-Aſſent*.

It was very mortifying to ſeveral Gentlemen, who dreamed of nothing but eaſy Chariots, on the Arrival of the fatal Pacquet, to ſlip out of them into their walking Shoes. But ſhould thoſe *Banks*, as it is vainly imagined, be ſo fortunate as to obtain a *Charter*, and purchaſe *Lands*; yet on any Run on them in a Time of Invaſion, there would be ſo many ſtarving Proprietors, reviving their old Pretenſions to *Land*, and a *Belly-full*, that the Subſcribers would be unwilling, upon any *Call*, to part with their *Money*, not know-

ing what might happen: So that in a Rebellion, where the Succeſs was doubtful, the *Bank* would infallibly break.

Since ſo many Gentlemen of this Town have had the Courage, without any Security, to appear in the ſame Paper with a Million or Two; it is hoped, when they are made ſenſible of their Safety, that they will be prevailed to truſt themſelves in a neat Skin of Parchment with a ſingle one.

To encourage them, the Undertaker propoſes the Erecting a *Bank* on *Parliamentary Security*, and ſuch Security as no Revolution or Change of Times can affect.

To take away all Jealouſy of any private View of the Undertaker, he aſſures the World, that he

is now in a Garret, in a very thin *Waſtcoat*, ſtudying the publick Good, having given an undeniable Pledge of his Love to his Country, by pawning his *Coat*, in order to defray the Expence of the Preſs.

It is very well known, that by an *Act of Parliament* to prevent *Prophane Swearing*, the Perſon ſo offending, on Oath made before a Magiſtrate, forfeits a *Shilling*, which may be levied with little Difficulty.

It is almoſt unneceſſary to mention, that this is become a Pet-Vice* among us; and though Age renders us unfit for other Vices, yet this, where it takes hold, never leaves us but with our Speech.

* A favourite Vice.

So

So vaſt a Revenue might be raiſed by the Execution of this *Act*, that I have often wonder'd, in ſuch a Scarcity of *Funds*, that Methods have not been taken to make it ſerviceable to the Publick.

I dare venture to ſay, if this *Act* was well executed in *England*, the Revenue of it applied to the *Navy*, would make the *Engliſh* Fleet a Terror to all *Europe*.

It is computed by Geographers, that there are Two Millions in this Kingdom, (of *Ireland*) of which Number there may be ſaid to be a Million of *Swearing Souls*.

It is thought there may be Five Thouſand Gentlemen, every Gentleman, taking one with another, may afford to Swear an Oath every Day, which

which will yearly produce One Million, Eight Hundred, Twenty Five Thousand Oaths, which Number of Shillings makes the Yearly Sum of Ninety One Thousand, Two Hundred and Fifty Pounds.

The Farmers of this Kingdom, who are computed to be Ten Thousand, are able to spend yearly Five Hundred Thousand Oaths, which gives Twenty Five Thousand Pounds; and it is conjectured, that from the Bulk of the People Twenty, or Five and Twenty Thousand Pounds may be yearly collected.

These Computations are very modest, since it is evident that there is a much greater Consumption of Oaths in this Kingdom, and consequently a much greater Sum might be yearly raised.

That

That it may be collected with Eaſe and Regularity, it is propoſed to ſettle *Informers* in great Towns in Proportion to the Number of Inhabitants, and to have *Riding Officers* in the Country; and ſince nothing brings a greater Contempt on any Profeſſion than Poverty, it is determined to ſettle very handſome Salaries on the Gentlemen that are employed by the *Bank*, that they may, by a Generoſity of living, reconcile Men to an Office, that has lain under ſo much Scandal of late, as to be undertaken by none but Curates, Clerks of Meeting-Houſes, and broken Tradeſmen.

It is reſolved, that none ſhall be preferred to thoſe Employments, but Perſons that are notorious for being *conſtant Churchmen*, and *frequent Communicants*, whoſe Piety

will

will be a ſufficient Security for their honeſt and induſtrious Execution of their Office.

It is very probable, that Twenty Thouſand Pounds will be neceſſary to defray all Expences of Servants Salaries, *&c.* However, there will be the clear Yearly Sum of One Hundred Thouſand Pounds, which may very juſtly claim a Million-Subſcription.

It is determined to lay out the remaining unapplied Profits, which will be very conſiderable, towards the erecting and maintaining *Charity-Schools*; a Deſign ſo beneficial to the Publick, and eſpecially to the *Proteſtant Intereſt* of this Kingdom, has met with ſo much Encouragement from ſeveral great Patriots in *England*, that they have engaged to procure an *Act* to ſecure the ſole

Benefit of Informing, on this *Swearing-Act*, to the Agents and Servants of this *New Bank*. Several of my Friends pretend to demonstrate, that this *Bank* will in Time vie with the SOUTH-SEA *Company*: They insist, that the *Army* dispend as many Oaths Yearly as will produce One Hundred Thousand Pounds neet.

There are computed to be One Hundred pretty Fellows in this Town, that swear Fifty Oaths a Head daily; some of them would think it hard to be stinted to an Hundred: This very Branch would produce a vast Sum Yearly.

The FAIRS of this Kingdom will bring in a vast Revenue; the *Oaths* of a little *Connaught*-One, as well as they could be numbred by Two Persons, amounted to Three Thousand. It is true, that it would

be

be impossible to turn all of them into ready Money; for a *Shilling* is so great a Duty on *Swearing*, that if it was carefully exacted, the common People might as well pretend to *drink Wine* as to *swear*; and an *Oath* would be as rare among them as a *clean Shirt*.

A Servant that I employed to accompany the *Militia* their last Muster-Day, had scored down in the Compass of Eight Hours, Three Hundred Oaths; but as the putting the Act in Execution on those Days, would only fill the Stocks with Porters, and Pawn-Shops with Muskets and Swords; And as it would be matter of great Joy to *Papists*, and *disaffected Persons*, to see our *Militia* swear themselves out of their Guns and Swords, it is resolved, that no Advantage shall be taken of any *Militia-Man's Swearing* while he is

under Arms; nor shall any Advantage be taken of any Man's swearing in the Four Courts, provided he is at Hearing in the *Exchequer*, or has just paid off an Attorney's Bill.

The *Medicinal Use* of *Oaths* is what the Undertaker would by no means discourage, especially where it is necessary to help the Lungs to throw off any distilling Humour. On Certificate of a *Course* of *Swearing* prescribed by any Physician, a *Permit* will be given to the Patient by the proper Officer of the *Bank*, paying no more but Six-Pence. It is expected, that a Scheme of so much Advantage to the Publick will meet with more Encouragement than their *Chimerical Banks*; and the Undertaker hopes, that as he has spent a considerable Fortune in bringing this Scheme to bear, he

he may have the Satisfaction to see it take place, for the Publick Good, though he should have the Fate of most *Projectors*, to be *Undone*.

It is resolved, that no Compositions shall be made, nor Licenses granted for *Swearing*, under a Notion of applying the Money to *pious Uses*; a Practice so scandalous as is fit only for the See of *Rome*, where the Money arising from *Whoring-Licenses* is applied *ad propagandam Fidem*: And to the Shame of *Smock-Alley*, and of all *Protestant Whores*, (especially those who live under the Light of the Gospel Ministry) be it spoken, a *Whore* in *Rome* never lies down, but she hopes it will be the Means of converting some poor Heathen, or Heretick.

The *Swearing-Revenues* of the Town of *Cork* will be given for ever

ever, by the *Bank*, to the Support of poor *Clergymen's Widows*; and those of *Ringsend* will be allowed to the Maintenance of Sailors Baſtards.

The Undertaker deſigns, in a few Days, to appoint Time and Place for taking *Subſcriptions*; the *Subſcribers* muſt come prepared to pay down *One Fourth*, on *Subſcribing*.

POST-

POSTSCRIPT.

THE Jews of *Roterdam* have offered to Farm the Revenues of *Dublin* at Twenty Thousand Pounds *per Ann.* Several eminent *Quakers* are also willing to take them at that Rent; but the Undertaker has rejected their Propofals, being resolved to deal with none but *Christians.*

Application may be made to him about them, any Day at PAT's Coffee-House, where Attendance will be given.

FINIS.

Lately Publiſh'd,

Written by Dean SWIFT,

I. LETTERS, POEMS, and TALES, Amorous, Satyrical, and Gallant. Which paſſed between Dr. *Swift*, the Celebrated Mrs. *Anne Long*, and ſeveral other Perſons of Diſtinction. Price 2*s.*

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All Sold by J. ROBERTS in *Warwick-Lane.*

THE *Best in Christendom.*

A

TALE.

MUSING one Day on *This* and *That*,
And thinking on I *know not what*;
A jolly Nymph, of *Phœbus'* Strain,
Attack'd me thus in merry Vein.

The Rival Deities of Old,
A Shepherd choſe, (as I am told)
To whom each Goddeſs made her Suit,
And He decided their Diſpute.

No Deities your Aid implore:
But Nymphs, in Number Three times Four,
(Nymphs full as ſprightly and as good,
As e'er were made of Fleſh and Blood,
Who now are ſporting on the Plain,)
Have choſe Thee Umpire, happy Swain!
Here, read theſe Words——and quickly tell,
Thou, who in Wiſdom doſt excel,
Relate, nor think me troubleſome.
What means the——*Beſt in Chriſtendom?*
She ſmiled, ſhe bluſhed, and with a Grace,
Hung down her Head, and Veiled her Face.

From various Things, ſaid I, ariſe
Variety of Qualities.

This fires the Soul, and That the Blood;
Myſterious ſome, ſome underſtood.
But, ah! how wide my Task and far is
From what was giv'n to Shepherd *Paris!*
Naked he view'd the Heav'nly Fair,
And did not ſlip one ſingle Hair:
So curious in Examination,
No *Part* eſcap'd his *Penetration.*
But ſince my Judgment is required,
I'll ſpeak——for now I am Inſpired.
The Nymphs ſo ſprightly, blith and gay,
Shall change their Notes another way.
The *Beſt*, muſt ſomething be, *Divine*:
And ſure that THING muſt needs be Thine

If ſo, ſays ſhe, (with ſwelling Veins)
Then prithee take it for thy Pains.

FINIS.

This fires the Soul, and That the Blood;

My [illegible] Fire, some under Flood.

But, ah! how wide my Task and far is

From what was giv'n to Shepherd Paris!

Naked he view'd the Heav'nly Pair,

And did not flip one fingle Hair:

So quick was Admiration,

No Part efcap'd his Penetration.

But fince my Judgment is required,

I'll [illegible] for now I am inſpired.

The Nymphs [illegible] both and gay,

Shall change their Notes another way.

The [illegible] fomething be Divine:

And fure that T H I N G muſt needs be Thine

If [illegible] (with fwelling Veins)

Then pitiſh take it for thy Pains.

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